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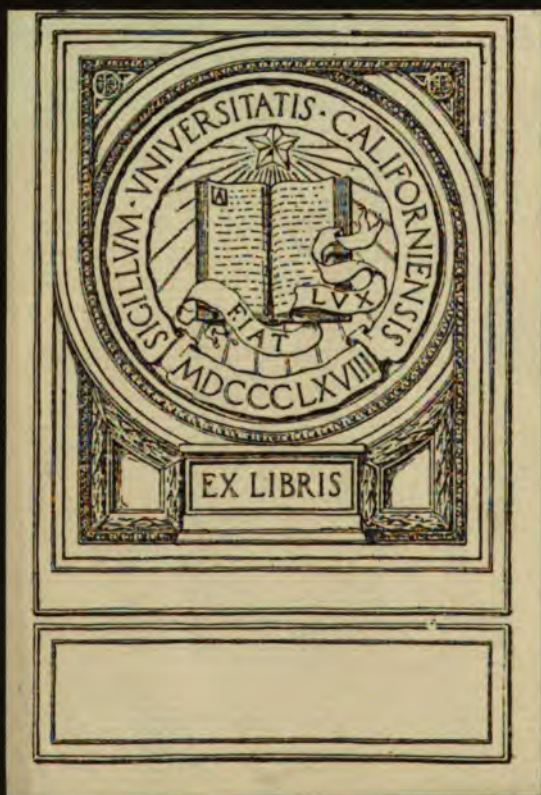
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AN ADDRESS

BY

MRS. JOHN CASE PHELPS,

DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT
AT LAUREL RUN, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,

SEPTEMBER 12, 1896.

TO MARK THE SPOT WHERE

CAPTAIN JOSEPH DAVIS AND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JONES,

OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE,

WERE SLAIN BY THE INDIANS APRIL 25, 1779.

WITH A SKETCH OF THESE TWO OFFICERS

BY

REV. HORACE EDWIN HAYDEN, M.A.,

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE WYOMING HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY,
WILKES-BARRE, PA.

1897.



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

Univ. of
California



1779
JULY 23, 1779
CAPTAIN DAVIS, LIEUTENANT JONES
CORPORAL BUTLER AND TWO PRIVATES
BELONGING TO THE ADVANCE GUARD OF THE
EXPEDITION UNDER
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN
WERE SCALPED, TOMAHAWKED AND SPEARED
BY THE INDIANS.
THEIR BODIES WERE BURIED HERE, THREE OF
THE TWO OFFICERS WERE REINTERRED IN
WILKES-BARRÉ, JULY 29, 1779.
1779 1896

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E. B. YORDY, PRINTER,
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ABSTRACTS

ADDRESS

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AT LAUREL RUN, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,

SEPTEMBER 12, 1896,

TO MARK THE SPOT WHERE

CAPTAIN JOSEPH DAVIS AND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JONES

OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE,

WERE SLAIN BY THE INDIANS APRIL 23, 1779.

BY

MRS. JOHN CASE PHELPS.

689421

"WYNDCLIFFE,"

Laurel Run, Pa., Sept. 12, 1896.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

AT THE DEDICATION OF A
MEMORIAL STONE

TO THE

OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF GEN. SULLIVAN'S ARMY,
MURDERED BY THE INDIANS, NEAR INDIAN SPRING,
APRIL 23, 1779.

MUSIC, ALEXANDER'S BAND.
SONG—Hail Columbia, —
INVOCATION, BY REV. F. B. HODGE, D. D.
SONG—Star Spangled Banner, —
HISTORICAL PAPER, READ BY MR. FRANCIS A. PHELPS.
SONG—My Country 'Tis of Thee, —
PRESENTATION, BY MR. ZIBA BENNETT PHELPS.
SONG—Columbia, —
BENEDICTION, BY REV. H. H. WELLES, D. D.
MUSIC, ALEXANDER'S BAND.

Officers and Members of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society; Gentlemen of the Wyoming Valley Section of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution; Ladies of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Colonial Dames; Neighbors and Friends:

We have met this day to dedicate a memorial stone to the memory of Capt. Joseph Davis of the Eleventh Pennsylvania regiment, Lieut. William Jones of a Delaware regiment, and, as some accounts state it, Corporal Butler and three privates, belonging to a detachment of soldiers of the Revolutionary army under the command of Major-General John Sullivan. Generally in the records we find it stated thus,—Captain Davis, Lieutenant Jones and three privates; so whether the bodies of three or four soldiers lie here will always be a mooted question—like that of the number of his children who followed John Rogers to the stake. Perhaps some of you will ask—"are you sure any bones of Revolutionary soldiers lie near this place? Is this the spring near the Laurel Run where the savages waited in ambush for the gallant little band?" In order to answer the question, and prove our right to erect the memorial on this spot, we must ask you to bear with us as we bring the testimony of many witnesses. We have searched the "Records," and from "The Journals of the Military Expedition of Major-General John Sullivan against the Six Nations," edited by Mr. Frederick Cook, at that time Secretary of the State of New York, we can bring several interesting accounts to prove our case.

It is a matter of history that General Washington had determined to send a force into the Indian country sufficient, at one blow, to break up the savage haunts where these great barbarities were planned, and the depredators were harbored.

He wrote to General Gates, March 6, 1779, offering him the command of the army of invasion, with a letter enclosed and directed to General Sullivan, giving him the appointment if Gates should decline it, with directions to the latter to forward the letter to Sullivan. Gates declined the command in these words :

"Last night I had the honour of your Excellency's letter. The man who undertakes the Indian service should enjoy youth and strength ; requisites I do not possess. It therefore grieves me that your Excellency should offer me the only command to which I am entirely unequal. In obedience to your command I have forwarded your letter to General Sullivan."

Washington's letter to Sullivan was as follows :

"HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE BROOK, MARCH 6, 1779.

Dear Sir : Congress having determined upon an expedition, of an extensive nature, against the hostile tribes of the Indians of the Six Nations, the command is offered to Major General Gates as senior officer, but should he decline, it is my wish it should devolve upon you. That no time may be lost by General Gates' non-acceptance, I have put this letter under cover to him, and have desired him to forward it to you, should that be his determination. Should it therefore be sent to you, I must request you to set out as speedily as possible after the receipt of it to Head Quarters, as the season is already far advanced. Upon your arrival the whole plan of the expedition shall be communicated to you, and measures concerted for carrying it into execution.

Nothing will contribute more to our success in the quarter where we really intend to strike than alarming the enemy in a contrary one, and drawing their attention that way. To do this you may drop hints of an expedition to Canada by way of Coos. This will be more readily believed, as a thing of that kind was really once in agitation, and some magazines formed in consequence, which the enemy are acquainted with. You may also speak of the probability of a French fleet making its appearance in the Spring, in the River St. Lawrence, to co-operate with us. It will be a great point gained, if we can, by false claims, keep the force ready in

Canada from affording any timely assistance to the Savages, Refugees and these people against whom the blow is levelled.
 * * * * * I wish you to keep the motive of your journey to Head Quarters a secret, because if it is known that an officer of your rank is to take command to the westward, it will be immediately concluded that the object must be considerable. I am with great Regard, Dear Sir,
 Your Most Obedient Servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON."

General Sullivan's conduct in the expedition against the Indians was, by some, characterized as vandal and unmilitary. Sullivan bore the criticism in patience, and for the most part in silence; and such was his love for Washington that he never alluded to the fact that he was acting under the express directions of the Commander-in-Chief. These were his instructions: "The immediate object is the Six Nations total destruction and devastation of their settlements, and the capture of as many persons as possible."—(Ford's Writings of Washington, Volume 7, 356.)

To carry out Washington's plan Colonel Brodhead, with seven hundred men, the left division of the army, was sent into western Pennsylvania; General Clinton, with one thousand men, the right division of the army, was ordered to advance from the Hudson to Tioga. General Sullivan was ordered to rendezvous at Easton, which place he reached May 7, 1779, and there prepare his command for their march through the wilderness. He had sent, from Easton, April, 1779, a German regiment of two hundred to three hundred men to Wyoming, under Major Powell, following a few weeks later with the division under his own command.

The state of affairs in the Valley of Wyoming was better than it had been any time since the battle of July third, 1778. A small force consisting of the Wyoming militia under Capt. John Franklin, the Wyoming Company under Capt. Simon Spalding, with two companies of Colonel Hartley's regiment (Eleventh Pennsylvania), all under the com-

mand of Col. Zebulon Butler, had wintered at Wyoming. Colonel Butler, being reinforced also by a German regiment of about three hundred men, was enabled, not only to defend his position, but to clear the open portions of the valley of his cruel and insolent visitors; but small parties of Indians still hovered around Wyoming like wolves around a sheepfold. They waylaid the passes through the mountains and occasionally exhibited extraordinary instances of courage and audacity.

I quote from our venerated historian, the Hon. Charles Miner, whom I remember well as an honored guest at my father's house, where he was almost sure to come in June—often with his blind, though most attractive daughter, Miss Sarah, bringing a bunch of delicate pink roses to my mother, telling her he called the rose the “Lady Bennett,” and gallantly comparing it to the blush of her cheek. This being a neighborhood dedication, I may be permitted to indulge in a few personal recollections. In Mr. Miner's history, page 263, we find the following, not only graphic, but by comparing it with the army records, very truthful description of the ambuscade near Laurel Run, and we have taken his account for the inscription on the memorial stone, because he was so near to the eye-witnesses, and their immediate descendants, and therefore his statements must be correct:

“Major Powell, commanding two hundred men of a regiment which had been much reduced by losses in the battle of Germantown, having been ordered to Wyoming, arrived at Bear Creek, about ten miles from the fort, on the night of the 18th of April. Deeming themselves out of danger from a surprise by the Indians, orders were given that officers and men should dress in their best apparel, their arms be newly burnished, and everything be put in order to appear respectably on entering the Valley. As was the fashion of the day, the officers wearing ruffles, were also powdered.” Can you imagine the state of the ruffles and powder on the march in

this great wilderness, through which the soldiers were cutting their way, and these ruffled officers were turning aside to hunt the deer on this 23d of April, 1779. But the account runs thus: "As was the fashion of the day, the officers, wearing ruffles, were also powdered. The music, partaking in the excitement of the hour, played their liveliest strains as the party advanced. Deer were reported to have been seen by the vanguard, when Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones, armed with rifles, immediately hastened forward. Near the summit of the second mountain, by the Laurel Run, and about four miles from the fort, a fire was opened upon them by the Indians in ambush, by which Captain Davis, Lieutenant Jones, a corporal by the name of Butler, and three men under his command, fell. Major Powell, not far in the rear, hastened forward at a moment when an Indian, with surprising audacity, had seized a woman, the wife of one of the soldiers who had fallen, and was dragging her from the path into the thicket. A soldier in the act to fire, was stopped by Major Powell, but the woman escaped. The Major, it was thought, lost the self-possession so indispensable to a soldier, and his command, thrown into confusion, retreated in disorder. Uncertain as to the power, though too fatally assured of the prowess of his enemy, Major Powell undoubtedly experienced a degree of fear, which the force of the enemy disclosed, or probably present, did not warrant, and seems scarcely to have remembered that he still commanded nearly two hundred veteran soldiers. Dispatching his surgeon, who volunteered for the occasion, and John Halstead, a soldier of Captain Spalding's company, who had met him, and acted as a guide to Colonel Butler, the German Battalion was immediately called to arms, and marched to the Mountain to escort Major Powell and his men to the Valley. Major Powell, having leave to resign, soon left the army."

Mr. Miner adds in a foot note that "the bodies of the two

officers, hastily buried, were exhumed the July following, and on the 29th inst. re-interred with military honors, by the brethren of General Sullivan's army, and the regiments of Colonels Proctor and Hubley. A band of music, the first whose soul-arousing strains were ever heard in Wyoming, added interest to the solemn pomp and gloomy splendor of the display. A rude stone, but the best and neatest the condition of the country allowed them to obtain, was erected by the Masons, at the head of the grave in the Wilkes-Barre burying ground, with a suitable inscription."

Isaac A. Chapman, in his history of Wyoming (p. 130), gives this account of the ambuscade: "To afford the requisite protection in case of attack, a company of troops, under command of Major Powell, was directed to march by the small path through the swamp, and form a garrison in Wyoming fort, until the arrival of the main army. These troops, not apprehensive of any danger, proceeded in an irregular manner along the small path which admitted the passage of single files only, and were fired upon, on the 20th of April, by a body of Indians in ambush, while crossing the head of Laurel Run, near the summit of the first Mountain. In this attack, Captain Davis, Lieutenant Jones, and four men were killed, and the remainder of the troops having retreated a short distance, and formed for battle, succeeded in dispersing the Indians, who fled after a few scattering discharges, when the troops entered the Valley. The remains of Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones were removed to the burial ground in Wilkes-Barre, where the Brotherhood erected a rough stone monument, with a suitable inscription, over their graves."

William L. Stone, in his history, gives a short account (p. 230): "In the succeeding month of April, as Major Powell was leading a detachment of troops to reinforce the garrison of Wyoming, while threading a defile so narrow that but a single man could pass at a time, and utterly un-

conscious that a subtle enemy was lurking about his path, he was fired upon from an Indian ambuscade in Laurel Run, near the crest of the first mountain, and six of his men killed, of which number were Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones." Mr. Stewart Pearce gives us about the same account.

Let us now turn to some of the journals relating to this part of General Sullivan's great march through our old mountains. We have gone with the writers even to the Valley, as their descriptions are so interesting.

The following is from the journal of Lieut. Col. Henry Dearborn, commanding the Third New Hampshire regiment: "June 21, 1879.—Enter'd what is called the Great Swamp, proceeded 20 miles thro' a horrid, rough, gloomy country, the land covered with pine, spruce, laurel bushes and hemlock. We eat breakfast at a stream call'd Tunkhannak, we passed another call'd Tobyhannah, & another the Leahigh. We likewise pass'd what is call'd the Shades of Death,* a very gloomy thick part of the Swamp. 22d.—We march'd but 5 miles to a desolate farm [Bullock's farm], 7 miles from Wyoming. 23d.—We march'd to the Fort at Wyoming, 7 miles, where we found several reg'ts incamp'd, which are part of our army, our course the 2 last days has been N. West. The whole country from Easton to Wyoming is very poor & barren & I think Such as will never be inhabited it abounds with deer & Rattlesnakes."

From the journal of Dr. Ebenezer Elmer, Surgeon in Second New Jersey regiment. The journal begins June 18th, 1779, as the army under Gen. Sullivan leaves Easton. These items are the only mention of this part of the route: "21st.—Marched at Sunrise & about 6 o'clock Came to the

* Gen. John L. Clark, in his annotations of Hardenberg's Journal, states that the name "Shades of Death" is supposed to have been derived from the sufferings of those who escaped from the Massacre of Wyoming, but this is evidently an error, as the name was attached to the locality and appeared on the maps long before 1778.

great Swamp, which is interspersed & barren piney Spots throughout, very Stony. There are three or four Brooks which run thro' it, being branches of the Leehigh.—In some places the timber is very tall & thick, mostly white pine & Hemlock, with some Birch Maple & Locust trees. many of the white pines are 150 foot clear of any limbs.

* * * The last vale of this swamp is called the Shadow of Death. Having come so great a distance, in such bad roads, the waggons did not get in till late in the evening & several broke, some left behind, many horses tired, some died & others lost—lay all night in a bushy spot among the pine knots, by ye edge of the Swamp called the Fatigue Camp."

"23rd.—About 12 o'clock we came to our encamping ground on ye banks of the Susquehannah at Wyoming, 65 miles from Easton. The place does by no means answer my Expectation, yet it must be acknowledged that the points & in some places a depth of better than a mile is exceeding good bottom, yielding excellent grain or grass & having such a beautiful river running thro it navigable for boats makes it much more agreeable."

"25th.—Very warm in ye afternoon, a Smart shower of rain. Five miles from this place on the road we came, Capt. Davis & Lieut. Jones of this state were murdered by the Savages, the 23d of April last & their scalpts taken off, with five men who were out with them a hunting. A monument is erected on the Spot to commemorate the bloody tragedy, & the blood of Lieut. Jones Exhibited on a board crying for vengeance. What renders the action peculiarly inhuman was that the Scalps were all taken off by a Squaw, consort to a Sachem & that of, some while they were alive: enough methinks any of the sex possessed with natural Sensibility shudder at the thought, and even ye hardy made to reprobate it with horror."

Col. Adam Hubley, in his Journal of the Sullivan Expedition, 11th Penn'a, writes under date of August 18, 1779:

"This day, by particular request of several gentlemen, a discourse was delivered in the Masonic form, by Dr. Rogers, on the death of Cap. Davis, of the 11th Penn'a, and Lieut. Jones of the Delaware regiments, who were, on the 23d of April last, most cruelly and inhumanly massacred and scalped by the savages, emissaries employed by the British king, as they were marching with a detachment for the relief of the garrison at Wyoming. Those gentlemen were both members of that honourable and ancient Society of Freemen. A number of brethren attended on this occasion in proper form, and the whole was conducted with propriety and harmony. Text preached on this solemn occasion was the first clause in the 7th verse of the 7th chapter of Job, 'Remember my life is but wind.'"

From a journal of the march of General Poor's brigade, from "Soldier's fortune," on the Western Expedition, May 17th, 1779, by Daniel Livermore, Captain in the Third New Hampshire regiment, we have the following:

"Wednesday, June 23rd.—This morning the troops march at seven o'clock, and pass the Bear Swamp and a place called the Shades of Death, by its being a dark, lonesome place. The sun is scarcely to be seen for the trees and bushes. Not far from this place is where Capt. Davis and Lieut. Jones, from Pennsylvania, were inhumanly murdered April 18th, 1779, by the savages. During the whole of our march from Easton, we travelled through the most barren part of the country I ever saw, for so far together. * * * At about two P. M. we arrived at Wyoming. Here is a fertile country. * * * There are 250 Widows in the place, whose Husbands were slain in the battle." * * *

From the journal of Lieut. John Jenkins, Lieutenant in Captain Spalding's company:

"April 23rd.—This day Major Powell, with a party of men

coming in, were waylaid by the Indians near Laurel Run. Capt. Davis, Lieut. Jones and three men were killed and two others missing. About the same time the Indians drove off six cows from Shawnee." Lieutenant Jenkins served with General Sullivan as guide to the army, and received thanks of the General in general orders for services rendered. * * The original manuscript was in the hands of his grandson, Hon. Steuben Jenkins, Wyoming, Pa."

From the journal of Maj. John Norris, Captain in Third New Hampshire regiment :

" This day's march was as severe as it was unnecessary through a Wilderness, where there was only an Indian path, till the troops cut a road, this spring, for the passage of Sullivan's army. * * * After we crossed the creek we came to the Lehi, the west branch of the Delaware, & having passed this we enter a gloomy grove of Cypress, Hemlock, Pine, Spruce & call'd the Shades of Death. the growth of Timber in this Swamp is amazing. * * * Our next place of halting is Wyoming, distant seven miles, about four miles from this Town we saw two Monuments, set up by the wayside in memory of Capt. Davis & Lieut. Jones of 11th Pennsylvania Regt. with the following inscription.—The place where Capt. Davis was murdered by the Savages April 23rd, 1779, and the blood of Lieut. Jones."

In an historical address by Rev. David Craft, Wyalusing, Bradford county, Pa., being a full and complete history of the expedition against the Six Nations in 1779, commanded by Maj. Gen. John Sullivan, we find these few lines relative to our subject: " Early in the Spring, Major Powell, with a detachment of about 200 men of the Eleventh Pennsylvania, reinforced the garrison, and were joined by the remainder of the regiment soon after. The Indians ambuscaded this detachment at Laurel Run, near Wyoming, April 24th, and killed Capt. Joseph Davis, Lieutenant Jones, and two men."

Wyoming was then in Northampton county, whose capital was Easton. (p. 343.)

The Rev. William Rogers, D. D., Chaplain in Hand's brigade, also gives us such a glowing account, that we have copied descriptions of three days march from his journal:

"Monday, June 21st, 1779.—This day we marched through the Great Swamp and Bear Swamp. The Great Swamp, which is eleven or twelve miles through, contains what is called in our maps the 'Shades of Death,' by reason of its darkness; both swamps contain trees of amazing height, viz: hemlock, birch, pine, sugar maple, ash, locust, etc. The roads in some places are tolerable, but in other places exceedingly bad, by reason of which three of our wagons and the carriages of two field pieces were broken down. This day we proceeded twenty miles, and encamped late in the evening at a spot which the commander named 'Camp Fatigue.' The troops were tired and hungry. The road through the swamps is entirely new, being fitted for the passage of our wagons by Colonels Courtlandt and Spencer at the instance of the commander-in-chief; the way leading to Wyoming being only a blind, narrow path. The new road does its projectors great credit, & must, in a future day, be of essential service to the inhabitants of Wyoming and Easton. In the Great Swamp is Locust Hill, where we discovered evident marks of a destroyed Indian village. Tobyhanna and Middle creek empty into the Tunkhannak; the Tunkhannak empties into the head branch of the Lehigh, which at Easton empties into the Delaware. The Moosic mountain, through a gap of which we passed in the Great Swamp, is the dividing ridge which separates the Delaware from the Susquehanna. The army continued at Fatigue Camp until 2 o'clock P. M., on account of their great march the preceding day, many of the wagons and rear guard not getting in until midnight.

"Wednesday, June 23rd.—The troops prepared themselves

for Wyoming, from which we were now distant only 7 miles. This day we marched with regularity, and at a distance of three miles came to the place where Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones, with a corporal & four privates, were scalped, tomahawked and speared by the savages, fifteen or twenty in number; two boards are fixed at the spot where Davis and Jones fell, with their names on each, Jones's being besmeared with his own blood. In passing this melancholy vale, an universal gloom appeared on the countenances of both officers & men without distinction, and from the eyes of many, as by a sudden impulse, dropt the sympathizing tear. Colonel Proctor, out of respect to the deceased, ordered the music to play the tune of Roslin Castle, the soft and moving notes of which, together with what so forcibly struck the eye, tended greatly to fill our breasts with pity, and to renew our grief for our worthy departed friends & brethren. The words of the celebrated Young occurred on this occasion to my mind:

“ ‘ Life's little stage is a small eminence,
Inch high above the grave, that home of man
Where dwells the multitude.’

Getting within two miles of Wyoming, we had, from a fine eminence, an excellent view of the settlement. * * * It lies in a beautiful valley, surrounded by very high ground; the people inhabit up and down the banks of the river & very little back. There were in this settlement, last summer, a court house, a jail, & many dwelling houses, all of which, excepting a few scattered ones, were burnt by the savages after the battle of July 3rd, 1778, which took place near Forty Fort. At present, there are a few log houses, newly built, a fort, one or two stockaded redoubts, & a row of barracks; the settlement consists of six or more small townships. At the battle before spoken of, about two hundred & twenty men were massacred within the space of an hour & a half, more than a hundred of whom were

married men ; their widows afterward had all their property taken from them, & several of them with their children were made prisoners. It is said Queen Esther of the Six Nations, who was with the enemy, scalped & tomahawked with her own hands, in cold blood, eight or ten persons. The Indian women in general were guilty of the greatest barbarities. Since this dreadful stroke, they have visited the settlement several times, each time killing, or rather torturing to death, more or less. Many of their bones continue yet unburied where the main action happened. * * *

"Thursday, June 24th.—Was introduced to Col. Zebulon Butler, the gentleman of whom much has been said on account of his persevering conduct in opposing the savages. * * * Being St. John's day, a number of Free Masons met at Colonel Proctor's marquee ; at his request (though not one of the fraternity myself) read for them the Rev. Dr. Smith's excellent sermon on Masonry."

Lieut. John L. Hardenburgh, First Lieutenant in Second New York Continental regiment, was one of the surveyors of the 3rd "Military Tract," the name of the road over our mountains, and gives us the Rev. William Rogers' account of the ambushade at Laurel Run. His field books, neatly kept and carefully preserved, are now in the possession of the Cayuga County Historical Society.

In an historical address delivered by Chauncey N. Shipman at the "Centennial Celebration of the battle of Newtown," held in 1879, we have taken this description of the re-interment of the bodies of the two officers : "Before the Army under General Sullivan taking up their line of march, it was resolved to re-inter the bodies of Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones in the public burial grounds, near the old fort, with appropriate Masonic and military ceremonies. Accompanied by the regimental band, brethren of Colonel Porter's lodge proceeded to the mountain brow, with mattock and spade, re-opened the graves of their fallen brothers,

and with untold ceremonies, raised them from corruption there, and then with step to music, that melted their hearts in all the tenderness of woe, took their downward march to the valley. Here they were received by the Masonic Lodge and the regiments of Colonels Proctor and Hubley, and by them were again consigned to the earth with military honors, and the peculiar rites and ceremonies of Masonry. A rude stone, the best the valley then afforded, was afterwards placed over their remains, bearing this inscription: "In memory of Capt. Joseph Davis of the 11th Pennsylvania; also of Lieutenant William Jones, who were murdered by the savages, on their march to the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Wyoming on the 23rd of April, 1779. Erected by a friend." A few days after the scene just narrated, the army halted at Tioga, and on August 18th a funeral sermon was preached by Dr. Rogers, one of the chaplains of the army, from Job 7: 7, "Remember that my life is wind."

Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones were known to have been members of the Masonic Fraternity, and it is to that fraternity that we owe the fact of their honorable and Christian burial. One month after their massacre, May 18, 1779, Col. Thomas Proctor, of the First Regiment of Pennsylvania Artillery, secured from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania a warrant "to form and hold a travelling military Lodge" in his regiment. Still later, June 23, General Sullivan reached Wyoming with Proctor's regiment, and as they passed the spot where Colonel Powell's men were killed, the regimental band played "Roslin's Castle" in honor of their slain brothers. Mr. Harvey, in his "History of Lodge No. 61, F. and A. M.," page 23, gives this very interesting account of the re-interment of the slain:

"Before leaving the valley it was resolved to bring the remains of Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones from their rude graves on the mountain and re-inter them in Wilkes-Barre, with appropriate military and Masonic ceremonies.

On the 28th of July, Brethren of Colonel Proctor's Lodge, accompanied by the Regimental Band, proceeded to the mountain brow, where the graves of the slain were opened, their bodies raised thence with untold ceremonies and conveyed down into the Valley. Here they were received by the Military Lodge and the regiments of Colonel Proctor and Lieutenant Colonel Adam H. Hubley, and by them were buried with military honors and the peculiar rites of Masonry in the public burying ground near the Wilkes-Barre Fort."

"The following account of this the first Masonic funeral held in the Wyoming Valley was prepared at the time by a Brother and forwarded to John Carter, Esq., of Providence, R. I., who published it on Saturday, Sept. 18, 1779, in his *Providence Gazette and County Journal*:

"Wyoming, July 31, 1779.—On Thursday last, the 28th, agreeable to previous determination, the bodies of our Brethren, Captain Joseph Davis and Lieutenant William Jones, who were massacred by the savages near this post on the 23d of April last, were re-interred. This mark of respect we thought necessary for the following reasons: it being expressive of our esteem, and their not being buried in the proper graveyard. The form of procession being fixed on by Lodge No. 19 was as follows:

24 musketeers with reversed arms.

2 Tylers bearing their swords.

A band of music.

2 Deacons with wands.

2 Brethren bearing Orders.

The Holy Bible and Book of Constitutions,
supported by two Brethren.

The Reverend Brethren.

The Worshipful Master, with the Hon. Maj. Gen'l Sullivan.
Senior and Junior Wardens bearing their Columns.

The Treasurer and Secretary.

Past Master.

The Brethren, two and two.

Brothers of the Army, two and two.

2 corps of drums, muffled, and fifes playing a solemn dirge.

"The Brethren were neatly clothed, with jewels, etc., and were in number odds of one hundred and fifty. Just as we arrived at the grave, an exceeding heavy gust of rain coming up prevented the delivery of a discourse which had been prepared for the occasion by Brother Rogers. A short prayer being by him offered up, we then committed their bodies in Masonic form to the dust, afterwards three volleys of small arms were discharged. The Brotherhood were attended by the Pennsylvania Infantry, commanded by Colonel Hubley, as likewise by a great concourse of people, both inhabitants and soldiery. The melancholy scene was closed with that decorum usual among the Brethren, and the satisfaction of all the bystanders. A stone being prepared by our Brethren, Forest and Story, with a suitable inscription, was fixed at the head of their grave.' "

I remember seeing in the old graveyard this stone, much defaced and sunken. Mr. George M. Hollenback, whose grandmother, Eleanor (Jones) Hollenback, is said to have been a relative of Lieutenant William Jones, put the old stone in the grave at Hollenback Cemetery when the slain were re-interred there in 1867, and erected over the grave a new stone with the same inscription, adding the words, "Erected by a friend."

When the remains of Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones were removed from the old Wilkes-Barre burying ground to Hollenback Cemetery, on June 24th, 1867, Sidney Hayden, Esq., cousin of our friend, Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden, delivered the address before "Masonic Lodge No. 61." His account of the ambushade was taken from Mr. Miner's history, which you have seen is corroborated by the Army Records.

The following account of the third interment is quoted from the *Wilkes-Barre Record*, September 14, 1896:

"The mouldering bones lay undisturbed until 1867, when the growing borough of Wilkes-Barre required the aban-

donment of the burying ground. Again the bones were exhumed and conveyed to Hollenback Cemetery, where they lie in a lot near the main entrance. The ceremonies were again under Masonic auspices, and the historical address was made by Sidney Hayden, Esq., of Athens, Pa.

The committee from Lodge 61 consisted of E. L. Dana, S. D. Lewis, E. B. Harvey, H. B. Wright, Dr. Urquhart, A. M. Bailey, W. L. Stewart. The procession to Hollenback Cemetery was in the following order :

Marshal, C. C. Plotz.

Veteran Zouaves.

Veterans of the Rebellion.

Veterans of the Mexican War.

Veterans of 1812.

Scranton Band.

Masonic body consisting of these lodges: Shickshinny; Schiller of Scranton; Hyde Park; Plymouth; Peter Williamson Lodge of Scranton; Waverly; Union of Scranton; Carbondale; Lodge 61 of Wilkes-Barre. These comprised over five hundred Masons.

Clergymen.

Hearse.

Pall bearers: Cols. H. M. Hoyt, S. H. Sturdevant, William Brisbane, Lieut. Cols. E. S. Osborne, T. C. Harkness, G. N. Reichard, C. M. Conyngham, Oliver Parsons, George Smith. On the way to the cemetery the air 'Roslin Castle' was again played, as it had been sixty-eight years before."

The journals all state that, between Laurel Run and the crest of the first mountain, the writers saw where Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones had been killed, and were buried. The dates differ a few days as to when the incident occurred—also the number slain—but all agree that about

here the ambushade with its horrors took place. Tradition has always called this spring "Indian Spring."

Let me add here a word for the old Wilkes-Barre and Easton Turnpike, that was for years to many of us our highway into the world beyond our mountains. Our ancestors built it with much personal care and expense, working out some of their taxes, with their men and teams, every year on the old road. It was as great an achievement to them as our railways are to our generation. My father, Judge Ziba Bennett, was its last president, and wound up the affairs of the turnpike as a toll road. My grandfather, Judge Joseph Slocum, who was for many years president of the old turnpike, said in his last days: "They are building a plank road to Slocum Hollow to get to a railroad, and they say a man can go from Wilkes-Barre to New York in a day. It is almost beyond my belief." Then he added, sadly, "I wonder what will become of the old turnpike. There is no more use for the old man and the old road." I have thought if he could return to earth, and ride with us over the fine shale roads built by our neighbors, General Oliver and Mr. Lewis, he would be more surprised and pleased than he would be at the railroads, where trains of loaded cars with their iron horses are daily mounting the steep grade. When a child I took my first journey in the stage coach to Philadelphia, and I remember well the strangeness of leaving home in the night. The coach left between three and four o'clock in the morning. I remember how tall and thick the trees were in the vale called the "Shades of Death," and how frightened I grew at the darkness, and how pleasant it was to ride out of the gloom into the sunlight, and after a long drive of four hours in the early morning, to find breakfast at Terwilleger's, now Tucker's.

Isaac A. Chapman, in his History of Wyoming, says: "After the battle of July 3rd, many of the inhabitants were driven from the valley, and compelled to proceed on foot

sixty miles through the great swamp, almost without food or clothing. A number perished on the journey, principally women and children ; some died of their wounds, others wandered from the path in search of food and were lost, and those who survived called the wilderness through which they passed the 'Shades of Death,' an appellation which it has since retained." Only the name of "Shades Creek" and a few weak scions of the mighty trees are left to tell where these wonders grew which astonished the soldiers when they cut their way through the Great Swamp more than a hundred and twenty years ago.

We have one more proof to bring. Tradition says the old stage drivers would tell the youngsters seated beside them on the coach box, as they would be passing the old spring at dusk, "You know, folks say they have seen ghosts here, for the bones of some Revolutionary soldiers are buried near here," and as the listener would shudder, the old driver would whip up his horses, and soon give his companion a sedative to his fears, as on the crest of the Wilkes-Barre mountain he caught a glimpse of the lights gleaming down in the valley. With this last, though not best proof, we ask if you do not think this spot, near the old spring, is not a fitting place to erect this memorial? Then, again, what a fine place for an Indian ambuscade the great rocks in the rear of Mr. Parrish's home, "Rockwood," must have been.

Four months after the battle of Wyoming, on the 2d of November, 1778, Frances Slocum, a little girl of five years, was stolen by the Indians, never to be seen again by her mother, and not by her brothers and sisters until when she was a woman 64 years of age. About forty days after her abduction, Isaac Tripp, her grandfather, and Jonathan Slocum, her father, were speared, tomahawked and scalped by the savages. They were members of the Society of Friends, and had been unmolested by the Indians until Mr. Slocum's

eldest son, Giles, a boy of seventeen years, had joined the band of patriots on the memorable 3d of July; then the family seem to have been a shining mark for Indian vengeance. These being our ancestors, is it not a duty for us to erect this Memorial Stone to those who helped to make our beautiful valley a safe home for its long suffering inhabitants?

Neighbors and friends, let us make this spot sacred to the immortal memory of these heroes, who were murdered while marching to deliver our ancestors from the savage foe, and who have fallen here in defense of *American Liberty*.

The Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden, Corresponding Secretary of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, and a member of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Sons of the Revolution, received the care of the monument for the Wyoming members of the Sons of the Revolution, and in his remarks stated his pleasure at being able also, as a member of the Fraternity, to represent the Masonic Body whose brotherly love first honored the two officers, whose names are inscribed on the monument, by a military and Masonic burial.

Mrs. Katherine Searle McCartney, Regent of the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, accepted the care of the monument for that Society, remarking, among other things, that this is the first instance in this section of a woman erecting a monument to the patriot dead.

A BRIEF SKETCH

OF

CAPTAIN JOSEPH DAVIS AND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JONES

OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE,

WHO WERE SLAIN BY THE INDIANS AT LAUREL RUN, PA.,

APRIL 23, 1779.

READ BEFORE THE WYOMING HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

MAY 21, 1897,

BY

REV. HORACE EDWIN HAYDEN, M. A.,

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE

WYOMING HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

It will be remembered by the members of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society that in September, 1896, a monument was erected by the patriotic zeal of the family of Mrs. John C. Phelps, at Laurel Run, to commemorate the soldiers of the advance guard of General Sullivan's army, who were slain by the Indians April 23, 1779. To the dedication of this monument the Historical Society was officially invited. A very interesting paper, prepared by Mrs. John C. Phelps, giving a full account of the massacre, was read.

At that time nothing more was known of the personnel of the slain than has been recorded by Chapman, Miner, and others, namely, that Captain Davis of the Eleventh Pennsylvania regiment, Lieutenant Jones of the Delaware troops, a Corporal Butler, and two or three private soldiers were slain. While preparing the MS. of Mrs. Phelps for publication by this society, I was led to make a most careful examination of the official and private records of the Eleventh Pennsylvania regiment in the hope of finding something more about these gallant men who lost their life in the defense of this valley and its people. It seems appropriate that the results of this search should be given to this Society, not only on account of its local interest, but also because it is the intention of the Phelps family to convey to this Society, in perpetuity, the ground on which the monument stands, with sufficient funds in trust for the future preservation of the monument so very wisely erected thereon.

In giving the history of these slain patriots it is necessary to give also a brief history of the command to which they belonged, for the presence of an officer of the Delaware troops, when no separate command from that State is found in the roster of Sullivan's army, must be explained. The

advance guard of two hundred men sent forward by Sullivan in April, 1779, was a detachment of the Eleventh Pennsylvania, known as the New Eleventh. It was under the command of Maj. Joseph *Prowell*, whose identity has been lost by reason of a typographical error which gives his name in all the histories of Wyoming as "*Powell*."

In order to make this second paper complete it is thought advisable to repeat Hon. Charles Miner's statement that :

"Major Powell, commanding two hundred men of a regiment which had been much reduced by losses in the battle of Germantown, having been ordered to Wyoming, arrived at Bear Creek, about ten miles from the fort at Wilkes-Barre, on the night of the 19th of April ; deeming themselves out of danger from a surprise by the Indians, orders were given that officers and men should dress in their best apparel, their arms be newly burnished, and everything be put in order to appear respectably on entering the valley. As was the fashion of the day, the officers wearing ruffles, were also powdered. The music partaking in the excitement of the hour, played their liveliest strains as the party advanced. Deer was reported to have been seen by the vanguard, when Captain Davis and Lieutenant Jones, armed with rifles, immediately hastened forward. Near the summit of the second mountain, by the Laurel Run, and about four miles from the fort, a fire was opened upon them by the Indians in ambush, by which Captain Davis, Lieutenant Jones, a corporal by the name of Butler, and three men under his command, fell. Major Powell, not far in the rear, hastened forward at a moment when an Indian, with surprising audacity, had seized a woman, the wife of one of the soldiers who had fallen, and was dragging her from the path into the thicket. A soldier in the act to fire was stopped by Major Powell, but the woman escaped. The Major, it is thought, lost the self-possession so indispensable to a soldier, and his command, thrown into confusion, retreated in disorder. Un-

certain as to the power, though too fatally assured of the prowess of his enemy, Major Powell undoubtedly experienced a degree of fear which the force of the enemy disclosed or probably present did not warrant and seems scarcely to have remembered that he still commanded nearly two hundred veteran soldiers. Dispatching his surgeon, who volunteered for the occasion, and John Halstead, a soldier of Spalding's company, who had met him, and acted as a guide to Colonel Butler, the German battalion was immediately called to arms and marched to the mountain to escort Major Powell and his men to the valley. Major Powell, having leave to resign, soon left the army." (Miner, p. 263.)

MAJOR JOSEPH PROWELL.

MAJOR JOSEPH PROWELL was himself a veteran soldier, and, as will appear later, did not leave the army because of this event. He was Major of the New Eleventh Pennsylvania regiment. The state of Pennsylvania had thirteen regiments of the line in service from 1776 to 1779. One of these, the Eleventh, had lost very heavily at Brandywine, and by action of the Supreme Executive Council, was incorporated with the Tenth regiment April, 1778, as in June, 1777, eight companies returned only two hundred and sixty-three men as ready for duty. Dr. Egle, in the Pennsylvania Archives, second series, volume X, p. 777, says, that "On the 27th of December, 1776, Congress passed a resolution authorizing General Washington to 'raise and collect together, in the most speedy and effectual manner, from any and all these United States, sixteen battalions of infantry, in addition to those already voted by Congress, and to appoint officers for the said battalions of infantry, &c.' On the 11th of January General Washington issued commissions and authority to raise two of these regiments to Lieut. Col. Thomas Hartley of the Seventh Pennsylvania, and Major Patton, of Miles' rifle regiment. No return of either of these

regiments has been discovered, and very few memorials of any kind, it is believed, have survived the ravages of fire and time. Hartley's regiment was in the First Pennsylvania brigade, General Wayne's division, Hartley commanding the brigade in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. What its actual strength was cannot be told. After these actions, November 1, 1777, Morgan Connor made a requisition for one hundred and fifty blankets for the regiment. The regiment was ordered to Sunbury about July 14, 1778, and remained in service on the West Branch until incorporated with the New Eleventh."

Colonel Hartley resigned February 13, 1779, when Lieut. Col. Adam Hubley, Jr., took command of the New Eleventh.

"On the 16th of December Congress resolved that Colonel Hartley's regiment and the four independent companies, raised in the state of Pennsylvania, commanded by Captains Doyle, Wilkins, Steel and Calderwood, and also the remains of Colonel Patton's regiment, except Captain McLane's company, be incorporated into one regiment, and added to the Pennsylvania line as an Eleventh regiment, and that Captain McLane's company be annexed to the Delaware regiment; subsequently, January 13, 1779, this action was reconsidered and it was resolved "that the regiment lately commanded by Colonel Patton (Captain McLane, his subalterns, and men raised in the Delaware state excepted), and the independent companies raised in Pennsylvania, and afterwards annexed to Colonel Malcolm's regiment, be incorporated with Colonel Hartley's regiment, the whole to form a complete battalion on the new establishment, and be added to the Pennsylvania line as the Eleventh regiment of that state; that the several officers be arranged by the board of War, and enjoy their rank according to their commissions or appointments respectively."

The New Eleventh Pennsylvania returned June 25, 1779, eight companies and two hundred and forty-nine men. These

companies are given in the Pennsylvania Archives, among them "Captain McLane's Delaware regiment," twenty-one rank and file. Major Prowell's company, at that date, numbered thirty-six rank and file.

Major Joseph Prowell was a native of York county, Pennsylvania, where he was born about 1753. Commissioned captain of Col. John Patton's Additional Continental regiment January 11, 1777, and promoted Major January 1, 1778. He was transferred to Col. Thomas Hartley's New Eleventh Pennsylvania regiment, Continental line, January 13, 1779, retired June 5, 1779. It is not at all certain that his resignation was in any way related to his failure to resist the ambush at Laurel Run, April 23, 1779. He was surely a gallant soldier, having served with his command in the two severely fought battles of Germantown and Brandywine, as well as elsewhere. It was evidently the difficulties which arose from the rearrangement of the various officers in combining two commands which led to his retirement. Colonel Hubley, who commanded the New Eleventh after Hartley's retirement in the Sullivan expedition, wrote to General Hand, from Sunbury, June 11, 1779: "A board of General Officers to determine the dispute of rank between Major Prowell and the Captains of the Penn'a line determined in favour of the latter, in consequence of which he will be removed from the rank he now holds, and a Senior Captain take his place. * * I am extremely sorry for the loss of Major Prowell; he is a worthy, good officer." (Pennsylvania Archives, second series, xi, 10.)

Major Prowell was the son of Thomas Prowell and his wife Rachel Griffith, who were married in Old Swede's Church, Philadelphia, September 21, 1752, and grandson of James Prowell, who emigrated from Wales to Chester county, Pa., 1715. He became a member of the Philadelphia First Troop in March, 1777, was made Cornet 1783, Second Lieutenant 1784-1787, and Honorary member September 10,

1787. Poulson's *Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia, April 6, 1805, contains the following: "Died, on the third instant, at the seat of Capt. James Josiah, Maj. Joseph Prowell, formerly an officer in the American Army during our revolutionary war, and lately of the Colony of Demerara, where he resided many years. His remains were brought to town on Thursday evening, and yesterday morning interred in the Presbyterian burying ground." He participated with the Troop in the battle of Brandywine. From one of his grandsons it is learned that:

"After the revolution he became a prosperous merchant on the high seas, and engaged in trade with many foreign ports. He was taken sick on his vessel while in the West Indies, June 4, 1804, but having partially recovered he sailed for Philadelphia, and died at the house of his friend, Capt. James Josiah, near Philadelphia, April 3, 1805, aged 53. He was buried with the 'honors of war' by the City Troop of Philadelphia. He is remembered traditionally as a bold, daring and fearless officer, and had a romantic history. He participated in the sailors' troubles with pirates of the Barbary States, and afterwards owned large possessions in the colony of Dernaii, and the colony of Berbice, on the west coast of Africa, where he assisted the British government to quell an insurrection in 1803. His executors were David Lennox, of Philadelphia, Robert and William Pulsford, of London, and John Douglass, of Berbice, in each of which places he had possessions."

CAPTAIN JOSEPH DAVIS.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH DAVIS who was slain at Laurel Run April 23, 1779, was a citizen of Philadelphia county, afterwards Montgomery county, Pa. He was first an officer of Colonel Samuel J. Atlee's Pennsylvania Musketry battalion, in which he was commissioned Ensign March 27, 1776. He was promoted First Lieutenant in the Ninth Pennsylvania regiment

August, 1776. He was also attached to Col. John Patton's Additional Continental regiment during this year, as he was reported by the Controller General of Pennsylvania as in "Patton's regiment," and as entitled to donation land for his service, but as "killed in action." Dr. Egle states that "it is uncertain whether he did not belong to Patton's, as he was his brother-in-law." His name, wherever it occurs, has "Hartley's regiment" to it, but that may be because he was killed after Patton's was consolidated into Hartley's. Davis was transferred to Hartley's Additional regiment January 15, 1777, promoted Captain June 5, 1778, and transferred to the New Eleventh Pennsylvania regiment December 16, 1778, and killed at Laurel Run April 23, 1779. He was a brother of Capt. Benjamin Davis, of Montgomery county, Pa., who was First Lieutenant in the First Pennsylvania battalion, Col. Philip DeHass, October 27, 1775, promoted Captain January 5, 1776, serving in the Canada campaign. When this battalion, which in October, 1776 numbered five hundred and forty rank and file, returned to New Germantown, N. J., December, 1776, it numbered, rank and file, sixty-nine men, among whom was Capt. Benjamin Davis, who resigned January 1, 1777. He appears in the orderly book of the regiment as serving as "Captain of the Day," and as "Member of the Court Martial," at different times. Benjamin Davis, Jr., was Lieutenant of the Philadelphia Flying Camp 1776, elected a member of the Philadelphia City Troop October, 1778, Honorary member September 10, 1787; died 1810, and was probably the Benjamin Davis, *supra*. Jane Davis, sister of Capt. Joseph Davis, married Col. John Patton, and died in Huntington, Pa., in 1832, aged 80 years.

Capt. Joseph Davis' social standing may be inferred by this connection, as Colonel Patton was a man held in high esteem by his co-patriots.

COLONEL JOHN PATTON.

COLONEL JOHN PATTON was born in Sligo, Ireland, 1745. He came to Pennsylvania just before the revolution. He was a member of the Philadelphia Committee of Inspection and Observation, August 16, 1775; member of the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club, 1775; Major of the Second battalion Pennsylvania Rifle regiment March 13, 1776, under Colonel Miles; transferred as Major to the Ninth Pennsylvania Continental line October 25, 1776; promoted by General Washington January 11, 1777, to be Colonel of one of the Additional regiments; became member of the Philadelphia City Troop July 4, 1779, and was placed on the honour roll of the troop September 10, 1787; was appointed one of the signers of Pennsylvania paper money 1781. He was also elected a member of the famous Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State of Schuylkill, July 23, 1782, and was a councillor from 1783. He was appointed on the Committee on the defense of the bay and Delaware river June 26, 1782. He subsequently became a General of the State militia. He was also appointed auctioneer for Philadelphia, November, 1787. In 1790 he sold to the State, for the modest sum of £664 specie (\$3300), five acres of land on Front street, Philadelphia, between Walnut and George, for the erection of a powder magazine.

Colonel Patton, after his resignation, November, 1777, was employed as superintendent to purchase flour for the army. When the war ended he engaged in the iron business with Colonel Miles, and built Centre furnace in Harris township, Centre county, where he died 1804, aged 59, and was buried in the church yard at Boalsburg. He was six feet in height, of noble appearance and carriage, and had red hair and hazel eyes. He had a fine address and polished manners. The history of the City Troop says, "died October 25, 1812." (page 179.)

The Davis family were doubtless Welsh Baptists, as the

marriage of Colonel Patton is recorded in the list of marriages of the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia. He was married by the Rev. William Rogers, D. D., who records the event thus: "Col. John Patton and Jane Davis, both of Philadelphia, March 7, 1777." Dr. Rogers was then chaplain of Colonel Miles' regiment, as well as pastor of the First Baptist Church.

Colonel Patton and Jane Davis had eleven children, viz:

1. Rachel, born May 9, 1779, married John Rose, a Scotchman and lawyer. She died ——— and Rose married, 2d, Sarah Scott, who became the mother of Isabella Rose, the wife of Chief Justice Grier, of Pennsylvania, and thus grandmother of Mrs. Elizabeth Grier Mayer, the widow of that beloved physician, Dr. Edward R. Mayer, of this city, once a V. President of this Society.
2. William, born August 8, 1781, married Henrietta Anthony, and died at Wellsboro.
3. John, born February 8, 1783, married Susanna Antes, daughter of Philip Antes, and granddaughter of Colonel Antes of Northumberland county. He was Associate Judge of Clearfield county; laid out Pattonsville, 1815; moved to Tioga county, 1817, and was prothonotary of Tioga county. He was father of Gen. John Patton of Curwensville, twice member United States Congress. (Meginness Bio., Ann. p. 16.)
4. Francis.
5. Benjamin.
6. Joseph.
7. Edward.
8. Ann, married, 1814, John Lyon, and died 1817, leaving one son.
9. Jane.
10. Samuel, married Mary Norris, daughter of John N. Norris, cashier of the Bellefonte bank.
11. Ellen.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JONES.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JONES was probably born at or near Newark, New Castle county, Delaware, and was a resident of Kent county, Delaware, at the commencement of the Revolution. It is supposed that he was related to or descended from the same stock as Surgeon James Jones of the Fourth and Sixth Pennsylvania Continental regiments, and who, after the Revolution, was a resident of Smyrna, Kent county, Delaware, and an original member of the Delaware Cincinnati. The Jones family were originally of Welsh descent, and had been settled at Newark for many years prior to the Revolution; Surgeon James Jones being the son of James and Susanna Jones of that place. Their descendants still continue to reside at Smyrna. Commodore Jacob Jones, U. S. N., of the war of 1812, was also from Smyrna, and presumably of the same family.

Lieutenant William Jones was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Captain Allan McLane's Partisan Company of Foot in the service of the United States January 13, 1777. This company was raised in Delaware. In the roster of the company for March, April, May and June, 1779, it numbered, rank and file, thirty-one men. This company served faithfully and bravely throughout the war, and was in all the battles of the Northern Department, and in the battle of Yorktown. It is not known who succeeded Lieutenant Jones in the company; but as the history of the company prior to his death is also his personal history, it is worth recounting. Captain Allan McLane was the father of Hon. Louis McLane and Dr. Allan McLane, both distinguished in the service of the United States and of Delaware. Many references to the services of McLane's Partisans occur in the history of the war. From a diary preserved among the Moravian records at Bethlehem we learn, under May 9, 1777, that "Col. [Allan] McLane with a troop of horse reached

here from Philadelphia, expecting to find Lady Washington, who he was to escort hence. She had, however, struck off on the Durham road and thus missed Bethlehem." (Penn'a Mag. of Hist., xii, 399.)

McLane's company had the distinguished honor of striking the first blow at the British at Germantown when Washington had advanced two regiments to oppose Howe. General Wilkinson, in his *Memoirs*, thus describes the action: "If the darkness of the night had deranged the march of the American troops, a very thick fog in the morning tended to keep up the distraction. That meritorious veteran, Col. Allan McLane, who for activity, enterprise, daring resolution and efficient service was surpassed by no officer of his grade in the Revolution, at that time a Captain, led the advance patrol of the centre, and being well acquainted with the ground and the position of the enemy, attempted to surprise their picket, but fell in with double sentries, whom he killed, with a loss of one man, and soon after routed the guard." (*Memoirs*, I, 363.)

It was also McLane's company that saved Lafayette from capture at Barren Hill, near Philadelphia.

Marshall, in his *Life of Washington*, states that "General Grant, the British commander, having been informed that the Marquis had taken possession near Barren Hill church, some eight or ten miles in front of his army, endeavored, May 10, 1778, with 5,000 men, select troops, to surprise and cut him off. Captain McLane, a vigilant partisan of great merit, was posted on the line some distance in front of Barren Hill. In the course of the night he fell in with two British grenadiers at Three Mile Run, who informed him of the movement made by Grant, and also that a large body of Germans were getting ready to march up the Schuylkill. Immediately conjecturing the object, McLane detached Captain Parr with a company of riflemen across the country to Wanderer's Hill with orders to harass and retard

the column advancing up the Schuylkill, and hasten in person to the camp of Lafayette. He arrived soon after daylight and communicated the intelligence he had received. It was not long afterwards confirmed by the fire of Parr on the Ridge road, and by an inhabitant who had escaped from White Marsh as the British column passed that place. Thus surrounded with danger, Lafayette took with promptitude and decision the only course which could preserve him."

General Alexander Scammell, the Adjutant General at Valley Forge, wrote to McLane, May 21, thus:

"Dear Captain: I am happy you have with your brave little party conducted with so much honor to yourself. The Marquis effected, owing to your vigilance, a glorious retreat as well as a difficult one."

Brigadier General Scott also wrote him to the same effect.

Lieutenant William Jones was commissioned on the same day with his gallant Captain McLane. The latter had won his promotion by his intrepid valor at Princeton, and it is very probable that Lieutenant Dunn and Lieutenant Jones, who were both promoted on the same day, had participated with McLane in the action at Princeton.

Watson, in his "Annals of Philadelphia," gives several very interesting and daring exploits of McLane and his men while the city was held by the British (ii, 321, 322, 323), as does also Christopher Marshall.

Marshall states, when General Howe evacuated Philadelphia, June 18, 1778, that "as the British army moved down Second street, Captain McLane, with a few light horse and one hundred infantry, entered the city and cut off and captured one Captain, one Provost Marshall, one guide to the army, and thirty privates, without losing a man." (i, 250.)

By the act of the Executive Council of Delaware, June 1, 1779, McLane's company was annexed to the Delaware regiment. (p. 424.)

I have been unable to identify Corporal Butler, but the

roster of the New Eleventh Pennsylvania gives the names of James Butler and William Butler as private soldiers, either of whom may have been the corporal who was slain on the 23d of April, 1779. The roster records the killing of Captain Davis on that day, and the roster of McLane's company, in the "History of the Delaware State Society of the Cincinnati," gives the death of Lieutenant Jones at Wyoming by the Indians, April 19, 1779.

Of Captain Allan McLane's Company the following roster is taken from Whiteley's History of Delaware in the Revolution, (pp.——)

Captain, Allan McLane, commissioned January 13, 1777.

1st Lieutenant, A. M. Dunn, commissioned January 13, 1777.

2d Lieutenant, William Jones, commissioned January 13, 1777. Killed Wyoming April 19, 1779.

1st Sergeant, John Edenfield.

2d Sergeant, John Hegan.

3d Sergeant, George Rowan.

4th Sergeant, Robert Farrell.

1st Corporal, Matthew Cusick [became fifer, 8th company, Eleventh Pennsylvania].

2d Corporal, John Vandergrift.

Drummer, Philip Meylon.

Fifer, Eleazar Crane [drew compensation for depreciated pay in Pennsylvania.]

PRIVATES.

Barret Alley.

Francis Bilstone.

Lidford Berry.

James Burk.

John Butcher [drew compensation for depreciated pay in Pennsylvania].

Ezekiel Clark.

Lazarus Carmedy.

Patrick Dagney [served in the 6th company, Eleventh Pennsylvania].

Thomas Finn [served in Capt. Jonathan Caldwell's Company, "Blue Hen's Chickens," 1776].

Edward Hines.

Harry Harneyman.

James Longo.

Moses McLane [drew compensation for depreciated pay in Pennsylvania].

Charles McMunugill.

Thomas Parker [served also in Hartley's Regiment].

John Rowles.

William Stratton.

Robert Solloway [served also under Capt. Jonathan Caldwell, Delaware Regiment].

Perry Scott.

Thomas Wells [drew compensation for depreciated pay in Pennsylvania].

Fourth Sergeant Robert Farrell also served later in Capt. Jonathan Caldwell's Company, "Blue Hen's Chickens," Delaware Regiment.

Of Col. Allan McLane an excellent sketch will be found in the "History of the Delaware State Society of the Cincinnati," by Capt. Henry Hobart Bellas, U. S. A.

LIEUTENANT ABNER MARTIN DUNN.

LIEUTENANT ABNER MARTIN DUNN, First Lieutenant of McLane's company, it appears, from Dr. Egle's Pennsylvania Archives, was commissioned Ensign in Capt. Rudolph Bunner's company, Second Pennsylvania battalion, Col. Arthur St. Clair, November 11, 1776. He was commissioned First Lieutenant January 13, 1777, and transferred as aid-de-camp to Col. John Patton during that year, in his Additional regiment. He was commissioned Lieutenant Ninth Pennsylvania May 31, 1779. He was transferred to

the Fifth Pennsylvania January 17, 1781, and to the Second Pennsylvania January 1, 1783. He is found again in the First Pennsylvania September 23, 1783. He also appears to have received compensation for depreciated pay. In the roster of the Ninth Pennsylvania, dated June 17, 1777, he is called "of Captain McLane's company, late Colonel Patton's regiment, transferred to Fifth Pennsylvania, January 17, 1781." He received warrant number 790 for 200 acres of land in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, 1787, and number 1645 for 200 acres in Crawford and Venango counties, for his military services as Second Lieutenant, Second Pennsylvania Infantry. (Report of the Controller General of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Archives, 3d Series, iii, 437.)

Lieutenant Abner Martin Dunn and his brother, Major Isaac B. Dunn, of General St. Clair's staff, were members of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati. Lieutenant Abner Dunn's certificate of membership in the Cincinnati Society is still in possession of the family, and in excellent condition. Abner married, about 1790, Priscilla Tyler, youngest child of Edward Tyler, of Jefferson county, Kentucky, and had an only child, Amelia Ann, who married, about 1810, Amos Goodwin, of the same county and state. They had (GOODWIN)—

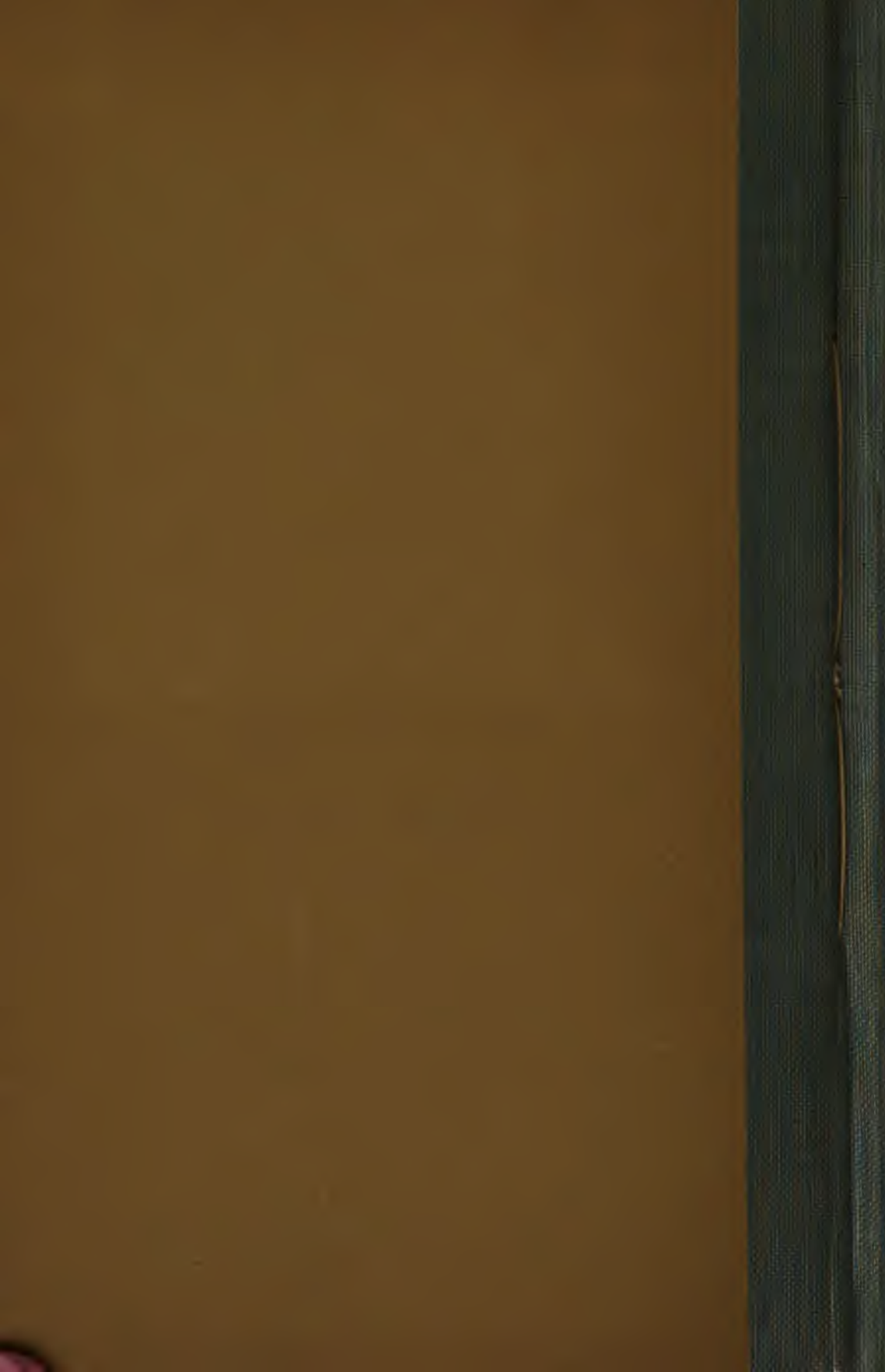
1. Isaac H. B., who had William Goodwin (s. p.), and Amos Goodwin, who left issue.

2. Mary Wallace, who married, 1838, Thomas Ware Gibson, whose mother was Sarah Clark, of Salem county, New Jersey, and was said to be a descendant of Abraham Clark, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. They had Charles H., born 1849, and George H. D.

3. Columbus, who has four sons living.

Mr. Amos Goodwin had also three other daughters.





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